Food subsidy

†2000. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of food subsidy provided during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that a major portion of food subsidy is spent on the maintenance of foodgrains;

(c) the total amount spent on the maintenance of subsidized foodgrains during the last three years; and

(d) to what extent the food subsidy reaches to its beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The amount of food subsidy released during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

2003-04	25160
2004-05	25746
2005-06	23071

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Food Corporation of India (FCI) has informed that the total amount spent by the FCI on maintenance of subsidized foodgrains during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

2003-04	1191
2004-05	1348
2005-06 (Provisional)	1129

(d) The Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of the Planning Commission in its report based on study of 18 major States submitted in March, 2005 has reported that the foodgrains leakage for BPL (as a percentage of offtake of BPL quota) through ghost grain cards is 16.67% and at Fair Price Shops is 19.71% (all India basis).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

An Evaluation Study on Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was undertaken by the ORG Centre for Social Research, New Delhi. As per the findings of the study there was a diversion of wheat and rice of 53.3% and 39% respectively at the all India level. The final report has been received in September, 2005 and forwarded to States/UTs for comments.

Sickness of sugar industry in Bihar

†2001. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar industry has become sick in Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the production of sugar mills operating in private sector is much below than the set target;

(c) whether an ambitious plan for the revival of sugar industry in Bihar has been prepared; and

(d) if so, the details with regard to the aforesaid parts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per the information received from the Cane Commissioner, Government of Bihar, there are 28 sugar mills in Bihar. Of these, 15 sugar factories under the Bihar State Sugar Corporation are sick and closed; 9 private sugar factories out of 10 are operating; out of the three sugar factories of B.I.C. Group, two sugar factories are under liquidation under the orders of B.I.F.R. and one is under revival process through a private entrepreneur under the orders of B.I.F.R.

(b) The average recovery percentage of sugar in the current season up to 28.02.2007 is 8.62 whereas it was 9.36 in the corresponding period last year. Likewise, the sugar production as on 28.2.2007 is 3.09 lac tons as compared to 3.28 lac tons of sugar production in the corresponding period last year.

(c) and (d) State Government has taken steps for revival of the sick/ closed mills through privatization, either on long term lease or sale. For

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.